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Neudrucke deutscher Litteraturwerke des XVI und XVII Jahrhunderts.  
Halle, Max Niemeyer, 1883.

No. 41, Das Endinger Judenspiel. Zum ersten mal herausgegeben von Karl von Amira.

This drama is by an anonymous author. It was represented in the year 1616 in Endingen. The story of the play is very simple. A family of poor Christians was murdered in Endingen about the year 1462. Several Jews of the town were accused of the murder in 1470; they confessed the crime and were burned. The play is written in a very simple style; the criminals do not make the slightest effort to hide the deed, but confess their guilt at once. It is not certain whether the play is founded on an historical occurrence or not.

Nos. 42, 43, Elf Fastnachtspiele aus den Jahren 1550 und 1551, von Hans Sachs. Herausgegeben von Edmund Goetze.

Whatever may be said of the poetical genius of Hans Sachs, and of the literary significance of his works, he holds the first rank among the great number of dramatists of the sixteenth century. This is certain, despite the fact that his dramatic power and skill are far from being very great in the true sense of the word. His "Fastnachtspiele" are probably the best works he ever wrote. They are founded on little anecdotes and humoristic stories, which he treated in his peculiar dramatic fashion. The selection contained in the present volume includes eleven plays, No. 39 to 50 inclusive. Some of them, especially No. 42, "Der Bauer in dem Fegfeuer," and No. 43, "Die listige Buhlerin," are founded on stories of the Decameron of Boccaccio. The whole collection is not without interest, and shows the old Mastersinger to his best advantage. The plays give a faithful picture of the times, and especially of the life in the German cities.

No. 49, Streitgedichte gegen Herzog Heinrich den Jüngern von Braunschweig, von Burkau Wallis, 1542. Herausgegeben von Friedrich Koldeweg.

This volume contains four poems. Their author was a zealous adherent of the Reformation, while the Duke Henry of Brunswick was vehemently opposed to Luther. The duke was powerful and cruel; he was a Catholic less from religious convictions than from selfish interests. His anger was particularly aroused when the new doctrine was preached in his city of Brunswick. At the imperial diet in Ratisbon, in the year 1541, he was accused of several criminal deeds, especially of having set fire to the town of Einbeck, when three hundred of its inhabitants perished in the flames. In the year 1542 the electoral prince, Johann Friedrich of Saxony, and the Landgrave Philipp of Hessa marched against the duke in the interests of the cities of Brunswick and Goslar, which Henry had oppressed. The duchy was conquered and the duke fled. This campaign against the adversary of the Reformation brought forth many songs and satires, in which the joy at the victory of the Protestant cause and the scorn at the duke's defeat found a vivid expression.

The four poems given in the present volume are interesting, as they show us the spirit of a very interesting epoch.

D.